



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Kimberly Bruce
Public Information Officer

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Phone: 779-348-7331

E-mail: Kimberly.bruce@rockfordil.gov

Rockford Police to host *Coffee with a Cop*

Program offers opportunity to meet local officers, discuss community issues

ROCKFORD, Ill. – On Friday, October 7, 2016, officers from the Rockford Police Department and community members will come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships, and drink coffee. Coffee with a Cop will take place from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. at the following locations:

- McDonald's, 3710 Auburn Street
- McDonald's, 930 W. Riverside
- Burger King, 2911 Auburn Street
- Sister's Café, 2626 Kilburn Avenue
- Katie's Cup, 502 7th Street
- McDonald's, 1441 Kishwaukee Street
- Doughboys, 3330 11th Street
- Meg's Daily Grind, 1141 N. Alpine Road
- Machine Shed, 7475 E. State Street
- Cracker Barrel, 730 N. Lyford Road

Coffee with a Cop provides a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's work throughout the community.

The majority of contacts law enforcement has with the public happen during emergencies, or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship building with the community, and some community members may feel that officers are unapproachable on the street. *Coffee with a Cop* breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction.





Rockford Police Department

“We hope that community members will feel comfortable to ask questions, bring concerns, or simply get to know our officers,” said Rockford Police Chief Dan O’Shea. “These interactions are the foundation of community partnerships.”

Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by The United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the county, as local police departments strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve. The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members one cup of coffee at a time.

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